SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. Justification:

1. Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, requires that a carrier first obtain FCC authorization either to (1) construct, operate, or engage in transmission over a line of communication, or (2) discontinue, reduce, or impair service over a line of communication. Part 63 of Title 47 of the CFR implements Section 214. Part 63 also implements provisions of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 pertaining to video approved under OMB control number 3060-0149.

   On March 26, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) adopted a Report and Order, FCC 26-19 (*Network and Services Modernization Order*), that modified certain recordkeeping or reporting requirements identified below that relate to the obligations of carriers seeking Commission authorization to discontinue, reduce, or impair service.

   Due to the adoption of the *Network and Services Modernization Order*, FCC 26-19, the Commission is submitting this revised information collection to OMB in order to obtain a three-year approval.

   ***History*:**

   In the *Report and Order* for Implementation of Section 402(b)(2)(A) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (*214 Streamlining Order*), released on June 30, 1999, the Commission modified Part 63 to eliminate information submission requirements entirely for some categories of communications carriers and to reduce the submission requirements for other categories. As part of the *214 Streamlining Order*, the Commission created a streamlined process to allow carriers' affected customers to object to the proposed discontinuance, and, in the absence of sufficient grounds for denial, to automatically grant an application to discontinue service thirty-one (31) days after the Commission releases public notice of an application for non-dominant carriers, and sixty (60) days after release of public notice of an application for dominant carriers. Grounds for denial include if customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or if the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected. Whether or not there are filed objections, the rules provide for an application to be granted automatically unless the Commission finds sufficient grounds for denial and notifies the applicant. In 2009, the Commission extended to providers of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service the discontinuance obligations that apply to domestic non-dominant telecommunications carriers under section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

   To reduce burdens on carriers, the *2016 Technology Transitions Order* revised the rules governing the section 214(a) discontinuance process to provide streamlined treatment for applications to discontinue a service for which the requesting carrier has had no customers or reasonable requests for service during the 180-day period immediately preceding submission of the application.

   The Commission's *2016 Technology Transitions Order* also concluded that the public interest requires that applicants seeking to discontinue a legacy time division multiplexing (TDM)-based voice service as part of a transition to a new technology, whether Internet Protocol (IP), wireless, or another type (technology transition discontinuance application) must demonstrate that an adequate replacement for the legacy service exists in order to be eligible for streamlined treatment (the "adequate replacement test"). For any other domestic service for which a discontinuance application was filed, the then existing framework continued to govern automatic grant procedures. To reduce burdens on carriers, the Commission adopted a more streamlined approach for discontinuances involving services that are substantially similar to those for which a section 214 discontinuance has previously been approved.

On November 16, 2017, the Commission adopted a Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 17-154 (*2017 Wireline Infrastructure Order*), which modified the rules governing the section 214 discontinuance process to further streamline the discontinuance process or otherwise reduce the barriers to discontinuance in order to accelerate broadband deployment.

On June 7, 2018, the Commission adopted a Report and Order, FCC 18-74 (*2018 Wireline Infrastructure Second Report and Order*), which further modified certain recordkeeping, recording, and/or filing requirements identified below that relate to the obligations of carriers seeking to discontinue a service.

On March 26, 2026, the Commission adopted the *Network and Services Modernization Order*, which further modified certain recordkeeping, recording, and/or filing requirements identified below that relate to the obligations of carriers seeking to discontinue a service. Paragraphs (a)-(g) below specifically identify the requirements that the Network and Services Modernization Order modified, all of which either reduce the burdens or streamline the regulatory process for discontinuing carriers. In addition to those modifications, the *Network and Services Modernization Order* eliminated 47 CFR §§ 63.66, 63.90, 63.100, 63.504, 63.601, and 63.602, and revised 47 CFR §§ 63.60, 63.62, and 63.63 to account for any references or cross-references in those sections caused by the elimination of the previously enumerated rule provisions. All other requirements contained in the rules listed in Attachment A have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and remain unchanged.

<u>Revised Information Collection Requirements Which Require OMB Approval</u>:

(a) Adopting one consolidated rule applicable to all technology transitions discontinuance applications. Under this consolidated rule, an application to discontinue a currently offered retail voice service as part of a technology transition is eligible for streamlined processing if the applicant certifies that one or more of the following replacement services is available in every location throughout the affected service area: (1) a facilities-based interconnected VoIP service; (2) a facilities-based mobile wireless service; (3) a voice service offered pursuant to an obligation from one of the Commission's modernized high-cost support programs; (4) a voice service that has been available from the applicant throughout the affected service area for the previous six months and for which the carrier has at least a certain number of existing subscribers and which supports access to 911; or (5) a widely available alternative voice service that supports access to 911.

(b) Blanket section 214(a) authority for carriers to grandfather legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services (defined as those operating at speeds below 25/3 Mbps), and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service provisioned over copper wire. This blanket grant of authority eliminates the need for carriers to file a section 214(a) application when grandfathering these services.

(c) Requirements for providers seeking to discontinue a service supporting interconnection trunks or the exchange of traffic to ensure seamless 911 connectivity. Carriers seeking authority to discontinue a service supporting interconnection trunks or the exchange of traffic must specifically identify the service to be discontinued, not just the branded name of the service being discontinued. Carriers must also include in such discontinuance applications, in addition to the information required by sections 63.500 and 63.501: (1) a statement that at least 90 days prior to the planned discontinuance filing, the carrier provided a designated point of contact with authority to facilitate the orderly transition from legacy facilities that support 911 to the 911 Authorities, 911 service providers, and directly interconnecting local exchange service providers that support essential functions within 911 networks, including delivering 911 traffic to selective routers for transmission to public safety answering points (PSAPs) in the affected service area for coordination of the transition to ensure continued 911 connectivity, and (2) a list of providers that received notice in the affected service area with which the carrier has coordinated and the date(s) of that coordination.

(d) Conditional forbearance relief from section 214(a) discontinuance requirements for resellers in specific situations. The Commission forbears from all section 214(a) discontinuance requirements for resellers discontinuing resold services where the reseller's wholesale provider is engaging in a technology transitions discontinuance, with the condition that the discontinuing resellers provide reasonable notice to their customers.

(e) Applying the 31-day automatic grant period to all discontinuance applications. The Commission extends the 31-day automatic grant period applicable to applications to discontinue a service for which a carrier is non-dominant to all instances in which a domestic carrier submits a request to discontinue a service, along with the corresponding 15-day objection period. Doing so will reduce unnecessary paperwork and red tape that delays transitions to modernized technologies.

(f) Content requirements for discontinuance applications. Unless otherwise provided for, all discontinuance applications must include the following information: (1) for technology transitions discontinuance applications only, the difference in price, if any, between the service being discontinued and replacement services available in the affected service area; (2) for technology transitions discontinuance applications only, a description of the affected community or part of a community, including the population size and demographics and general characteristics of customers affected; (3) a description of replacement services, whether available from the applicant or third parties, that would remain in the affected community or part of the community in the event the application is granted, including the name of any other carrier(s) providing replacement services to the affected community; and (4) a statement of the factors otherwise showing that neither the present nor future public convenience and necessity would be adversely affected by the granting of the application. Carriers are also required to include in their discontinuance applications a certification, executed by an officer or other authorized representative of the applicant, that the information required by our rules is true and accurate. This information was already explicitly required for technology transitions discontinuance applications. Extending these requirements to all discontinuance applications will minimize the need for Commission staff to request from applicants additional information necessary for their evaluation of applications to discontinue those services, thus making the process more efficient and predictable.

(g) Permitting permanent discontinuance of services under specific circumstances after grant of emergency discontinuance authorization. A carrier may permanently discontinue a service after a showing that: (1) the carrier has previously obtained emergency discontinuance authority for the service in question; (2) the service is one for which the requesting carrier has had no customers or reasonable requests for service during the 60-day period immediately preceding the permanent discontinuance, and (3) an adequate replacement service is available throughout the affected service area. Doing so will support service modernization even during recovery efforts.

Statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in 47 U.S.C sections 214 and 402 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

This information collection does not affect individuals or households; thus, there are no impacts under the Privacy Act.

2. The Commission will use the information to determine if affected respondents are in compliance with its rules and the requirements of section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

3. In an effort to reduce any burden created by these information collections, the Commission will permit all respondents to file responses using automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques where feasible.

4. There will be no duplication of information. The information sought is unique to each carrier, and similar information is not already available from other sources.

5. The collections of information may affect small entities as well as large entities. However, in each instance, these requirements were designed to minimize or even reduce the regulatory burden on such entities. The *Network and Services Modernization Order* replaced the previous rules applicable to technology transitions discontinuance applications with one consolidated rule, thereby lessening burdens on carriers. It further eased the burdens on carriers associated with outdated services by granting blanket section 214(a) authority for carriers to grandfather legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected VoIP service provisioned over copper wire and granting conditional forbearance relief from section 214(a) discontinuance requirements to resellers when the wholesale provider of their resold service engages in a technology transitions discontinuance in recognition of the practical limitations specific to resellers. It also revised section 63.71 of our rules to apply the 31-day automatic grant period to all discontinuance applications regardless of applicants' status as dominant or non-dominant also revised the rules applicable to emergency discontinuances to permit permanent discontinuance of the affected service under specific circumstances.

6. Failing to collect the information, or collecting it less frequently, would prevent the Commission from implementing section 214 of the 1996 Act and reducing the compliance burdens and economic impact of the Commission's discontinuance requirements on carriers.

7. The collections are not being conducted in any manner inconsistent with the guideline of 5 CFR Section 1320.5(d)(2).

8. The Commission published a notice in the *Federal Register* initiating a 60-day comment period on this collection on May 13, 2026 (91 FR 27045). No comments on the notice were received. A copy of the notice is included in the submission to OMB.

9. No gifts or payments will be given to potential respondents for this collection.

10. Information filed in section 214 applications has generally been non-confidential. Requests from parties seeking confidentially are considered by Commission staff pursuant to agency rules. *See* 47 CFR § 0.459.

11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature involved, nor are there any privacy issues.

12. The new estimates listed here take into account the rule revisions outlined above and their impact on obligations under our existing rules. Estimates of the annual hourly burdens for this collection are as follows. These estimates are based on Commission staff's knowledge and familiarity with the availability of the data required.

The Commission makes several assumptions regarding the impact of the rules adopted in the *Network and Services Modernization Order*:

- We estimate that the number of respondents that will file technology transitions discontinuance applications will increase from two to six because of the reduced burdens associated with doing so under the revised rules, even though resellers will no longer have to file such applications when the wholesale provider seeks Commission authorization for a technology transitions discontinuance of the underlying service. We estimate that the total number of applications/responses from those six respondents annually will be 18.
- We estimate that respondents will file nine applications annually seeking to discontinue a service supporting interconnection trunks or the exchange of traffic.
- We estimate that the number of respondents that will file all other types of discontinuance applications will be 63 and that they will file 63 such applications, in part because carriers will no longer be required to file applications to grandfather legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service provisioned over copper wire.

The Commission believes that most of these respondents will use their "in-house" staff to comply with these requirements, given that complex section 214 applications such as those related to technology transitions are generally prepared by high level in-house staff attorneys and engineers of applicants supported by lower categories of staff.

The Commission has calculated the average number of 214 applications received in 2018 through 2025, taking into account respondents included as a result of the application of these rules to interconnected VoIP providers. The Commission has also calculated the average annual number of section 214 applications seeking to grandfather legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected VoIP service provisioned over copper wire from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2025. The Commission has also calculated the average annual number of section 214 applications filed by resellers involving underlying technology transitions discontinuances of the resold service from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2025. The following table summarizes respondents' overall hour burdens and costs for their submission (responses or applications) for all types of discontinuance applications. Detailed breakouts are provided below the following table.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL HOUR BURDEN AND COSTS

Subject	**Number of Respondents**	**Number of Responses Annually**	**Annual Hour Burden Per Response**	**Total Annual Hour Burden**	**In-house Cost Per Respondent**	**Total In-house cost to Respondents**
Total Technology Transitions Discontinuance Applications	6	18	10	180	$6,000	$36,000
Total Applications Seeking to	9	9	10	90	$2,000	$18,000

Discontinue Services Supporting Interconnection or the Exchange of Traffic						
Total – All Other 214 Discontinuance Applications (All Other Information Collection Requirements)[1]	63	63	6	378	$1,200	$75,600
CUMULATIVE TOTALS	**78**	**90**	**26**	**648**	**$9,200**	**$129,600**

The Commission estimates the hour burden for the part 63 collections to be as follows:

A. Calculation of Burden Hours for Technology Transitions Discontinuance Applications

(1) Total Number of Respondents: Approximately 6 respondents.[2]

(2) Total Number of Responses Annually: 18 responses – three responses per respondent.

(3) Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements.

(4) Annual Hour Burden Per Response: 10 hours.

(5) Total Annual Hour Burden: 180 hours.

18 responses x 10 hours/response = 180 hours.

[1] These figures represent existing respondents, responses, burden hours, and in-house cost for other Section 214 discontinuance applications that do not involve either technology transitions or the discontinuance of services supporting interconnection or the exchange of traffic. Carriers filed 83 total discontinuance applications in 2024, 5 of which involved technology transitions, and 112 total applications in 2025, 34 of which involved technology transitions. We expect the total number of discontinuance applications to increase as carriers continue to modernize their networks and discontinue outdated services, despite the Commission's grant of blanket section 214(a) authority in the *Network and Services Modernization Order* for the grandfathering of legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected VoIP service provisioned over copper wire

[2] The *Network and Services Modernization Order* granted conditional forbearance from the section 214(a) and part 63 discontinuance requirements for resellers when the wholesale provider of the resold service engages in a technology transitions discontinuance. The Commission estimates that this will result in four fewer discontinuance applications each year. However, these resellers will still have to comply with the relevant customer notice requirements adopted in the *Network and Services Modernization Order*. Nevertheless, we expect the overall number of technology transitions discontinuance applications to increase from two to six because of the reduced burdens associated with filing such applications under the revised rules.

Total estimate of in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information: $36,000.

Explanation of calculation: A number of variables must be considered. Complex section 214 applications generally are prepared by high level in-house staff attorneys of applicants supported by lower categories of staff; basic section 214 applications of firms are prepared by staff specialists supported primarily by administrative staff.

We estimate preparation costs of 18 responses annually x an average hourly salary for all staff categories of $200 x 10 hours per respondent per response.

Thus, the total estimated cost to the industry is approximately $36,000.

18 responses x $200/hour x 10 hours/response = $36,000.

B. Calculation of Burden Hours for Applications Seeking to Discontinue a Service Supporting Interconnection Trunks or the Exchange of Traffic

(1) Total Number of Respondents: Approximately 9 respondents.

(2) Total Number of Responses Annually: 9 responses – one response per respondent.

(3) Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements.

(4) Annual Hour Burden Per Response: 10 hours.

(5) Total Annual Hour Burden: 90 hours.

9 responses x 10 hours/response = 90 hours.

Total estimate of in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information: $18,000.

Explanation of calculation: A number of variables must be considered. Complex section 214 applications generally are prepared by high level in-house staff attorneys of applicants supported by lower categories of staff; basic section 214 applications of firms are prepared by staff specialists supported primarily by administrative staff.

We estimate preparation costs of 9 responses x an average hourly salary for all staff categories of $200 x 10 hours per respondent per response.

Thus, the total estimated cost to the industry is approximately $18,000.

9 carriers x $200/hour x 10 hours/respondent/response = $18,000.

C. Calculation of Burden Hours for All Other Discontinuance Applications[3]

(1) Total Number of Respondents: Approximately 63 respondents.

(2) Total Number of Responses Annually: 63 responses – one response per respondent.

(3) Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements.

(4) Annual Hour Burden Per Response: 6 hours.

(5) Total Annual Hour Burden: 378 hours.

63 responses x 6 hours/response = 378 hours.

Total estimate of in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information: $75,600.

Explanation of calculation: A number of variables must be considered. Complex section 214 applications generally are prepared by high level in-house staff attorneys of applicants supported by lower categories of staff; basic section 214 applications of firms are prepared by staff specialists supported primarily by administrative staff.

We estimate preparation costs of 63 respondents x an average hourly salary for all staff categories of $200 x 6 hours per respondent per response.

Thus, the total estimated cost to the industry is approximately $75,600.

63 carriers x $200/hour x 6 hours/respondent/response = $75,600.

	Total No. of Respondents	Total Annual Responses	Total Hour Burden
Current Estimates	78	90	648
In OMB's inventory:	80	88	1,096
Change in estimates:	-2	2	-448

13. The following represents the Commission's estimate of the annual cost burden to respondents from the collection of information: None.

14. Estimated annual cost to the Federal government is **$184,230** based on the current requirements and is estimated as follows:

We will use FCC attorney advisors (equivalent to federal GS13-15, step 5, plus 30 percent overhead;

[3] The *Network and Services Modernization Order* granted section 214(a) authority for carriers to grandfather legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service provisioned over copper wire, and it granted conditional forbearance from section 214(a) discontinuance requirements for resellers in specific situations. The Commission estimates that this will result in 15 fewer discontinuance applications each year.

including locality pay ($78.74/hour[4] x 1.3 = $102.36/hour) for these applications.

a. Overall, we estimate the average hours per response is 20 hours.

   i. 20 attorney hours at $102.36/hour = $2,047 per application

b. Total Annual Hour Burden: 1,800

   i. Based on 20 hours per response x 90 responses.

c. Total Annual Cost: $184,230

   i. Based on $2,047 per response x 90 responses.

15. The Commission is reporting program changes/decreases to the total number of respondents, total annual burden hours and the total annual cost; however there is an increase to the total annual responses with this revised collection. The total number of respondents decreased from 80 to 78 (-2), the total annual responses increased from 88 to 90 (+2) and the total annual burden hours decreased from 1,096 to 648 (-448). These program changes are due to (1) a decrease in the total average burden hours associated with section 214(a) applications under our amended rules; (2) Commission expectation that it will receive 15 fewer section 214(a) discontinuance applications annually in light of the Commission's conditional forbearance from section 214(a) discontinuance requirements for resellers in specific situations, and its grant of blanket authority to grandfather legacy voices services, lower-speed data telecommunications services, and interconnected VoIP service provisioned over copper wire; and (3) Commission expectation that more carriers will file technology transition discontinuance applications in light of the newly-adopted consolidated technology transitions discontinuance rule.

    Also, the Commission is reporting a decrease in the total annual cost from $27,900 to $0 (-$27,900) as a result of eliminating the requirements of the Adequate Replacement Test in the Network and Services Modernization Order.

    There are no adjustments.

16. No information is proposed to be published.

17. Approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval is not sought since this information collection does not include any forms, etc.

18. There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:

This information collection does not employ any statistical methods.

[4] This hourly rate represents the average for step 5 for each of grades 13 through 15.

Attachment A

Listing of collections currently in force in Part 63 under OMB Control Number 3060-0149 and which have not been modified other than as described above.

Section 63.01 –	Authority for all domestic common carriers.
Section 63.02 –	Exemptions for extensions of lines and for systems for the delivery of video programming.
Section 63.50 –	Amendment of applications.
Section 63.51 –	Additional information.
Section 63.52 –	Copies required; fees; and filing periods for domestic authorizations.
Section 63.53 –	Form.
Section 63.60 –	Definitions.
Section 63.61 –	Applicability.
Section 63.62 –	Type of discontinuance, reduction, or impairment of telephone or telegraph service requiring formal application.
Section 63.63 –	Emergency discontinuance, reduction or impairment of service.
Section 63.65 –	Closure of public toll station where another toll station of applicant in the community will continue service.
Section 63.71 –	Procedures for discontinuance, reduction or impairment of service by domestic carriers.
Section 63.500 –	Contents of applications to dismantle or remove a trunk line.
Section 63.501 –	Contents of applications to sever physical connection or to terminate or suspend interchange of traffic with another carrier.
Section 63.505 –	Contents of applications for any type of discontinuance, reduction, or impairment of telephone service not specifically provided for in this part.